The Quiet Corner

THE ARTS, DINING, ANTIQUES, ATTRACTIONS & SO MUCH MORE...

PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 31 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • JULY - SEPTEMBER 2011

For an afternoon, a day, or a weekend...come and enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

August 14th – Main Street Car Cruise

Downtown Putnam, CT

Custom & classic cars and motorcycles, prizes, raffles, food, music, vendors, entertainment such as burn-out pit and motorcycle stuntman Luke Emmons. • www.winyradio.com

Summer in the country is fun and full of adventure! Rent kayaks at Five Mile Outfitters and 'try before you buy.' Take a hike along a beautiful wooded trail. Go golfing and play mini-golf. Enjoy an art exhibit. Try your hand at pottery. Visit the Farmer's Market for fresh flowers and local produce. Enjoy a fabulous lunch or dinner on the patio. Treat yourself to ice cream. Visit a winery and tour our vineyards. Explore a corn maze. Pick-your-own strawberries, blueberries and pumpkins. And be sure to schedule your visit during one of Putnam's special events including the River Fire, the Main Street car cruise, or during First Fridays! All this and more can be enjoyed in northeastern Connecticut....not to mention scenic beauty, rolling hills, farms & agriculture, and historic architecture...why would you want to go anywhere else?

INSIDE:

A calendar of events...Local Advertisers...The Farmer's Market in Putnam...now open Saturdays with new vendors and products available throughout the season... ***A Place to Paddle***...kayaking is now easier than ever...rent or 'try before you buy' at Five Mile Outfitters in Danielson...***Putnam's Summer Events*** including Riverfires, the Main Street Car Cruise and the Big Dog Show... this listing makes it easy to 'save the date'...***The Weekend Planner...*** an itinerary of things to see & do!

Mackenzie Bertrand, Putnam

Discover Coriander...Eastford's newest cafe, general store and natural community center...run by the Laffert brothers... ***First Fridays***...Putnam is celebrating art & culture the first friday of every month (May-December)...come downtown and enjoy live entertainment, art exhibits, and music all evening long...***Celebrating Agriculture***...a fabulous agricultural event forthe whole family...***We-Lik-It Ice Cream Stand***...selected as the 'Editor's Choice' by Yankee Magazine...and ***Sawmill Pottery's Summer Workshops*** for all ages & abilities...and so much more!

Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Calendar of Events

Northeastern Connecticut is Forty-Five Minutes from Casinos, Hartford, & Providence
Twenty Minutes from Worcester • One Hour from Boston • Three Hours from New York City

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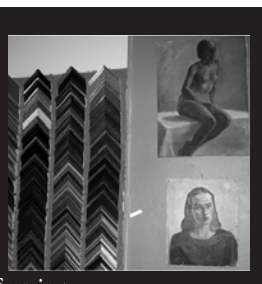
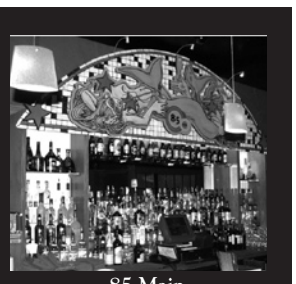


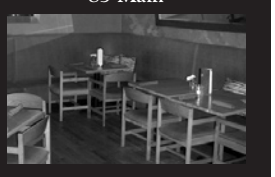
Arts & Framing

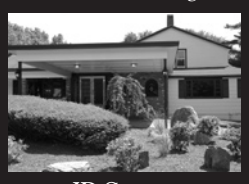


85 Main

Desired Weddings

Antiques Marketplace





JD Coopers

Glimpse of Gaia

Wonderland Books

"Named one of New England's Top 15 Small Towns to Visit."

– Boston Magazine

Discover PUTNAM CONNECTICUT

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From Gourmet to Casual – Great Dining Choices
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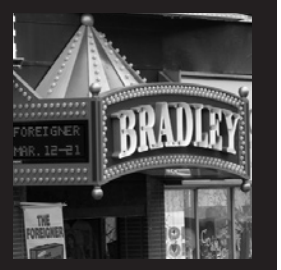
First Fridays May through December (first Friday of every month @ 5pm)
Art, Demos, Music, Entertainment in downtown Putnam
July 2nd @ 7:15pm - 4th of July Celebration in Rotary Park
July 16th @ 7pm - Motown al Fresco & River Fire in Rotary Park
August 13th - Annual Deary Memorial Road Race starts at JD Coopers
August 14th @ 11am - 5pm - 6th Annual Main Street Car Cruise in downtown Putnam
August 14th @ 1:30pm - ARC Duck Race in Rotary Park
August 20th @ dusk - River Fire in Rotary Park
September 12th - October 2nd - The Big Dog Show in Rotary Park
October 22nd - Great Pumpkin Festival in downtown Putnam

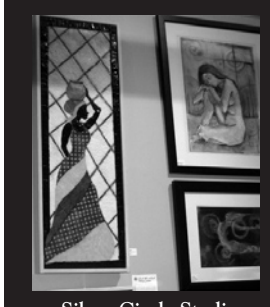
Putnam BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

www.discoverputnam.com • Find us on facebook



Main St. Grille

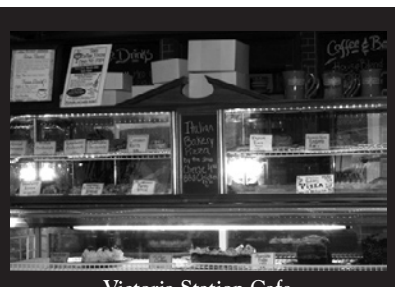
Panache



Silver Circle Studio

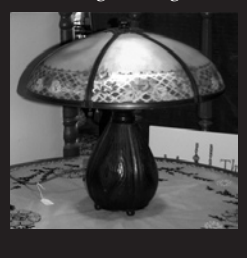
Sawmill Pottery

Vintage to Vogue



Victoria Station Cafe

The Arc Gift Shop



Always Something New
at the Farmer's Market in Putnam

Don't have time to plant a garden? Want to eat healthy and local? You're in luck because the Farmer's Market in Putnam is now open three days a week at the Riverview Marketplace Pavilion on Kennedy Drive.

BY CRIS CADIZ

Located on the banks of the Quinebaug River, the attractive Pavilion opened in the summer of 2009. The Farmer's Market was held Monday and Thursday afternoons and was often packed. Between the efforts of Putnam's government and the Northeast Connecticut Farmers' Market Association, funding was secured to add a Saturday Market, which will open on June 18th. Now shoppers who can't make it during the workweek have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of the season from their local farms.

"Saturday Farmer's Markets have become extremely popular in our nation as people want to be more aware of where their foods are grown and continuing the trend of becoming 'locavors' (eating locally grown foods)," explains Delpha Very, Putnam's Director of Economic and Community Development. "We have hired a market master (Paula Stahl) to start up the Saturday market through a stipend grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Eastern Resource Conservation and Development Area. Vendors will be paying for their space within the market for the season or a partial season rate. These funds will help to market the events and keep the market sustainable," says Very.

In addition to farm vendors, the Saturday Market will include artisans and invite local non-profit groups to showcase their missions. The town has also partnered with UCONN to create an educational forum at Saturday Markets, focusing on how people can make positive nutritional decisions and lead healthier lifestyles. Presentations/demonstrations will include how to grow a salad; how to grow, dry and keep herbs & garlic; composting; growing a "pizza garden" and more. More themed events are in the works, including local music and entertainment. For more information, visit www.PutnamFarmersMarket.org.

On Mondays and Thursdays, the Farmer's Market continues to be run by a group of dedicated farmers from surrounding towns. "We have a full market with twelve vendors," says Jean Palazzi of Palazzi Orchard in East Killingly and weekday Market Master. "I have been coming to and selling at the Putnam and Danielson farmers markets for almost 30 years. The completed River Walk to the market [from downtown Putnam] is a great opportunity for a good healthy walk for fresh local products. All of our produce is picked fresh, usually the day of the market, sometimes the day before. For the most nutrition, freshest is best. People who care about their health will love to pick out their 5-8 daily servings of fresh fruits and vegetables."

"I think we are going to have a great year," says Betsy Molodich, owner of Betsy's Stand in Sterling and President of the Northeast Connecticut Farmers' Market Association. "We have a diverse group of farmers that will be selling fruits and vegetable as well as beef, maple products, cheeses, plants, baked goods, chicken and much more at the various markets that we operate."

"Produce changes as the seasons change every market has a different selection," explains Palazzi. "In the spring there are lots of plants for gardens plus asparagus, lettuce and greens. As the weeks go by there will be more selection." Maple syrup, honey, jams and jellies are always available.

Putnam's Farmer's Market at 18 Kennedy Drive (exit 95 off RT 395) is open from June through October, Monday & Thursday from 3:30 to 6PM and Saturday, 10AM to 1PM.

Northeast Connecticut Farmers' Markets are also held in Danielson, Brooklyn and Plainfield. The Markets accept cash and WIC coupons (the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program/FMNP coupons but not credit cards. Visit www.nectfarmersmarket.org for more information.

FACT: Produce is most nutritious immediately after it has been picked.
FACT: Produce in your grocery store travels an average of 1,500 miles before you purchase it.
FACT: You can buy fresh (usually picked the same day!) produce & fruit (& more) at Putnam Farmer's Market 3 days a week this summer & fall.

> "How would you look after traveling fifteen hundred miles in the back of a truck?"
> *- NECT Farmer's Market Association Website*

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A Place to Paddle

A local opportunity to test drive a kayak

BY CRIS CADIZ

Don't be put off by the goat (it's not real)...or the parrots, bunnies, snakes and other live critters at the back of the store. They really do sell boats here. A few steps from the large white plastic Billy goat at the entrance of 99 Commerce Avenue, several kayaks are stacked neatly in racks. Inside smells of pine shavings and grain; behind the checkout counter a lower level that was once storage now holds dozens of brightly colored boats. This building in downtown Danielson is home to The Pet Depot, a feed and pet supply store; Amazing Animalz, purveyor of small exotic animals; and Five Mile Outfitters, a new business that sells and rents kayaks.

Lance Collins, multitasking manager of both The Pet Depot and Five Mile Outfitters, had run the pet supply store for four years before owner John Spendolini (who also owns Killingly Glass next door) decided to diversify from its longtime function as a feed & grain supply.

"We brought the kayak business in because of farming diminishing in the area plus the arrival of big box stores like Tractor Supply, Lowes and Petco," says Collins. "It's like having just one cheeseburger...if everyone takes a bite, there's not much left."

Spendolini, who initiated the concept, had looked around and saw there was a need for this type of business in the Quiet Corner. "You could see people who had boats on their cars. There was no one else around who was doing it," says Collins. "And we have water right here. I don't know how far you'd have to go to where you can try boats right at the store."

Perched right on the bank of Five Mile Pond (part of Five Mile River) just past Killingly Glass, this location does seem like the perfect spot to sell boats. Just off the parking lot, a new deck and stairs lead down to the serene water below. River access allows potential customers to "try before you buy" or rent boats and paddle onsite without worrying about how to transport the equipment.

"I have always liked boats," says Collins who is relatively new to the sport. "My parents had kayaks for years. I borrowed them a couple times and went out with buddies, but I didn't really enjoy it. Then I started paddling here and I realized that I'm a fidgeter. With their kayak, I couldn't move my legs around. Now I use a sit-on-top style. It's an all around completely different feeling and now I love it." Collins has traveled to Rhode Island for dealer demos and to learn more about the boats he now sells. He will be headed to Atlanta in July to try out 2012 models out on the water and is working on certification in safety and to give lessons or take small groups out on the water.

"The big catch with kayaking," says Collins, "is that it's green and healthy. It doesn't pollute or burn fuels. You are getting exercise and it's a one-time investment with no maintenance. You don't need insurance and there are no fees to use the waterways. This is a huge perk and why it's a growing sport." Collins loves the peace and quiet on

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Rental fees are $30 per a 3-hour on-site paddle
$45 for a one-day (on or off-site) rental
$60 for a weekend rental
The Pet Depot & Five Mile Outfitters are located at:
99 Commerce Avenue, Danielson, CT
860-779-2160 • Find us on facebook

the water. "This area is becoming more heavily populated. But when you're out there, there are no cars speeding by…it's like being in Maine."

Collins gladly shares his favorite places to paddle and supplies customers with a tourism packet put together by The Last Green Valley (which has lots of paddle specific information on their website, www.tlgv.org). "There are so many places to go in this area," says Collins. "I just did the Quinebaug from Route 101 upstream to Putnam and back. I like it here too [on the Five Mile River] but I'm kind of an explorer. I try to get out there and find new spots."

Currently, Collins is devoting most of his free time to promoting his "Paddle for the Cure" Event, scheduled for Saturday, June 11th. Having lost 5 family members to cancer, his mission to increase awareness and raise money (100% of which will go directly to The Oncology Foundation at Day Kimball Hospital) is very personal. He also hopes to draw attention to paddling and to offer

a fun event for paddlers to meet and perhaps gain new friends who also love boating.

"I am calling this the 'fun' fundraiser. Most people do fundraisers like Relay for Life to raise money, not because they love walking. This is also about meeting people who paddle. Maybe some will get together after and do a trip." He hopes for at least 50 paddlers this year. As an incentive, for every $50 they raise, they will get a ticket to win a new Vapor 10XT kayak, valued at $500. Participants will meet at Five Mile River Outfitter's launch site on Commerce Street and paddle up river and back for what's likely to be a 3-hour trip.

Open 8 to 5:30 Monday through Saturday and 9 to 1 on Sunday, Five Mile Outfitters carries Old Town and Ocean Kayak brands. Their inventory includes recreational or flat/calm water kayaks, both traditional and sit-on-top styles, plus paddles, vests, car racks and other paddle sport accessories.

The business launched a year ago in May and this will be the first season they offer rentals. Rental fees are $30 for a 3-hour onsite paddle; $45 for a one-day rental (on or offsite), and $60 for a weekend rental. Rental models are the popular Old Town Vapor 10. After a rental, if you decide you love the sport and buy your own boat, Five Mile Outfitters will deduct the cost of your rental fee.

Enjoy a demo day on Wednesday, June 22 from 4pm - 7pm. A sales rep will bring 20 boats to look at and try out. Complimentary refreshments for all and free promo items for those who buy boats will be available.

For more information call 860-779-2160 or search for Five Mile Outfitters on Facebook.

Putnam Summer Events

Putnam offers a great lineup of exciting events for all ages this summer. Unless otherwise noted, all are free and open to the public.

• **New this summer:** First Fridays and The Big Dog Show, Putnam's first public art exhibition.

First Fridays in downtown Putnam the first Friday of every month, May until December. Starting at 5PM, enjoy a variety of entertainment, specials from merchants & restaurants, art exhibitions, demonstrations and much more.

• **4th of July Celebration: Saturday, July 2 in Rotary Park.**
Live music by Johnny Press Mess, 7:15 to 9:15 pm; fireworks to follow. Rain date Saturday, July 9th.

• **River Fire: Saturday, July 16 and Sept 10 at dusk in Rotary Park.**
Putnam's signature event, featuring wood bonfires illuminating the Quinebaug River accompanied by music provided by WINY Radio.

• **Motown al Fresco: Saturday, July 16 at 7pm in Rotary Park.**
Live music at the Victorian bandstand, bring a blanket or chairs; followed by River Fire.

• **6th Annual Main Street Car Cruise: Sunday, August 14th (11AM – 5PM) in downtown Putnam.**
Custom & classic cars and motorcycles, prizes, raffles, food, music, vendors, entertainment such as burn-out pit and motorcycle stuntman Luke Emmons.

• **ARC Duck Race: Sunday, August 14th in Rotary Park, 1:30pm.**
Rubber ducks compete in the Quinebaug River for prizes; benefits ARC of Quinebaug Valley.

• **22nd Annual Deary Memorial Road Race: Saturday, August 13, starts at JD Cooper's Restaurant, 146 Park Road in Putnam.** Popular five-mile road race (9AM) & walk (6 & 8AM) to benefit the Deary Memorial Cancer Fund; 15 or 30-mile bike ride options (8AM).

• **The Big Dog Show: September 12 to October 2 in Rotary Park.** New England's largest traveling solo sculpture exhibit is a collection of 8-foot metal American Dog sculptures by award-winning metal sculptor Dale Rogers. The town, the Putnam Lion's Club & the Putnam Arts Council Annual have teamed up to raise awareness for the Fidelco program in this outdoor exhibition.

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Brett, Scott and Jason Laffert

David Emigh "Baker Dave"

CORIANDER

a café, general store and natural community center

BY NANCY WEISS

The region pulses with the energy of young entrepreneurs. Coriander, a café, general store and natural community center for residents of the town of Eastford and environs, is a new hot spot of enthusiasm, skill and business acumen. Located in the center of town, exactly where two roads diverge, Coriander occupies a charming two-story wooden structure that served as a general store and meat market under a variety of owners for decades.

From the moment, five years ago, when he first noticed a for sale sign outside building, Granville, Mass. native, Brett Laffert knew he would eventually open his own business there. Laffert, who holds a degree from the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vermont, worked at the Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret for seven years before setting out on his own. Prior to his stint at the Bean, Laffert, a reserved, thirty something with a ginger beard, held positions in Nantucket, Big Sur, Colorado and Boston. Brother Scott Laffert, also a partner in the business, moved to Woodstock and eventually led Brett and another brother, Jason, to the northeast corner. The three Laffert brothers now work side by side, seven days a week often from dawn to dusk building Coriander into a viable enterprise.

The structure, which had passed through several hands before being purchased in September 2010

by Phil Gibbs, Brett's business partner, needed new floors and fresh paint before the Laffert brothers could open the door. Scott Laffert, who holds a degree in fine arts and whose lively oil paintings fill the dining area, selected a sunny yellow color for the walls. Brett credits Kristyn La Plant, the chef at the nearby Hole-in-the-Wall Gang Camp with providing endless hours of work and encouragement during the three months they labored to get ready to open the doors. By November 2010, Coriander opened for business. Tables and chairs in soft gray and white create a welcoming spot for patrons to drop by for breakfast, lunch, afternoon coffee or after stopping at the nearby Eastford post office or local bank.

"You picked a good place. Terrific sandwiches. It is a focal point for the town," said Eastford resident Steve Broderick, who was finishing lunch on a recent spring afternoon. "We had a party for thirty-five and Coriander's prepared a fabulous sandwich platter," chimed in Karen Broderick.

The name of the café and general store was

Featured Homes For Sale
IN THE QUIET CORNER
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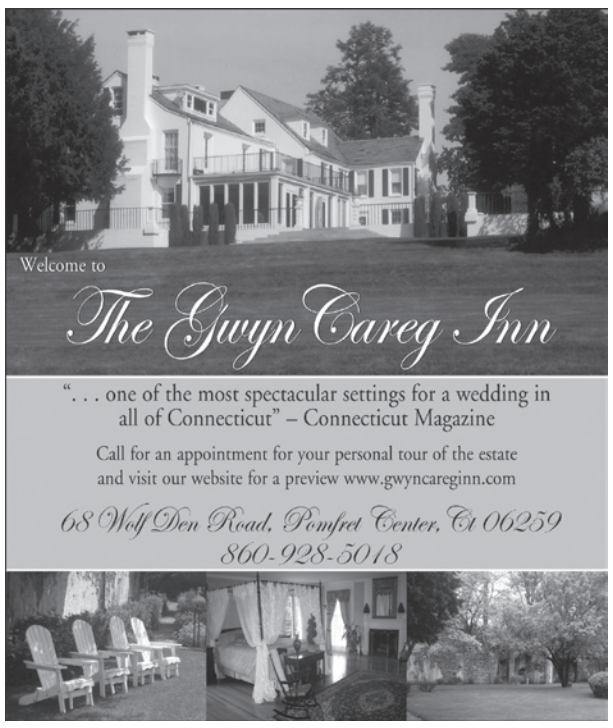

selected because Jason Laffert lives upstairs with a Great Dane named Ike and an overweight cat called Coriander.

Brett Laffert worked in several start-up restaurants when he began as a chef. He also credits Vanilla Bean manager, Barry Jessrun, "a great person to work for," as an excellent mentor, but acknowledges that he never before understood the effort it takes to operate a small business. "We're figuring it out. The learning curve is

tremendous. Just managing employees, four to five in addition to the three of us, working with vendors and sourcing local food is huge," said Laffert.

The Café menu focuses on gourmet sandwiches and soups with fresh baked bread and homemade bagels among the biggest draws. David Emigh, a resident of nearby Abington and a professor at Quinebaug Valley Community College, bakes the items in a wood fired oven. Baker Dave's items sellout every day. "Baker Dave has commissioned a wood fired oven and plans to place it on a deck on the side of the building," said Laffert

Coriander prides itself on offering food that is done in house and "from scratch" according to Laffert, who purchases as much as he can locally. He buys fruit from Buells Orchard in Eastford and vegetables, berries and other produce from Lapsley's Orchard in Pomfret. Canterbury Horticultural Society farm provides a wide variety of seasonal products. Laffert is "very into" heirloom tomatoes and has planted some along with an extensive crop of basil.

Coriander offers a selection of penny candy because the Laffert boys remember peddling their bicycles to a country store in their hometown. One area features handcrafts from local artists. Another offers local honey, maple syrup, Hosmer Mountain soda from nearby Willimantic and Mountain Dairy milk from Storrs. A center island, which Laffert calls " a work in progress" features items one might need to pick up on the way home to tweak a recipe or fill the needs of campers at nearby facilities.

Laffert is optimistic about the future. He has a great core of regular patrons and what he calls his "morning people'. He sees a mix of locals and commuters and appreciates the support of nearby business such as Whitcraft, for whom Coriander recently catered a special event with three courses served on china.

Laffert and his brothers are awaiting approval for a deck that will provide outside seating. He wants to expand the dinner menu, including offering items such as homemade lasagna that customers can purchase and take home. He will continue to seek out local suppliers and "play with what's in season."

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192 Eastford Rd, Eastford, CT 860-315-7691
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Calendar of Events

July

2nd @ Dusk (rain date 7/9)
Putnam Fireworks
Rotary Park, Putnam
Live music by Johnny Press Mess, 7:15 to 9:15 pm; fireworks to follow.
www.putnamct.us

4th of July Jamboree
East Woodstock Congregational Church
Woodstock, CT
www.explorewoodstock.com

16th @ 7:00 pm (rain date 7/18)
Motown al Fresco
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Enjoy a moonlit evening listening to live music at the Victorian bandstand, bring a blanket or chairs; followed by River Fire. www.winyradio.com

17th @ Dusk
River Fire
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Putnam's signature event, featuring wood bonfires illuminating the
Quinebaug River accompanied by
music provided by WINY Radio.
www.winyradio.com

12-15th
Brimfield Antique Show
Brimfield, MA
The Brimfield Antiques Show is the largest outdoor antiques show in the world, with over 6,000 dealers. Some fields charge an admission fee others are FREE.
www.brimfieldshow.com

23rd @ 1pm to 4pm
Ice Cream, Blueberry & Bluegrass Bash
Fort Hill Farms, Thompson, CT
Enjoy an afternoon celebration in recognition of National Ice Cream Month and the heart of Fort Hill's Blueberry season with complimentary sampling of the new 2011 The Farmers Cow Ice Cream Flavors and topped with grown on the farm blueberries. Listen to live Bluegrass music performed by the renowned Blackstone Valley Bluegrass band.
www.forthillfarms.com

August

5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20th at 7 p.m.
7, 14, 21st at 2 p.m.
The Producers
Bradley Playhouse, Putnam, CT
Winner of 12 Tony Awards, this madcap, racy, energenic musical will have you laughing and
clapping with delight, as you watch the story of two Broadway producers and their scheme to get rich by overselling interests in
a sure fire Broadway flop. Musical: $21 for Adults • $18 for Students/Senior Citizens www.bradleyplayhouse.org

14th
6th Main Street Car Cruise
Downtown Putnam, CT
Custom & classic cars and motorcycles, prizes, raffles, food, music, vendors, entertainment such as burn-out pit and motorcycle stuntman Luke Emmons.
www.winyradio.com

13th beginning @ 6am
22nd Annual Deary Memorial Road Race and Walk
Starting at JD Coopers, Putnam, CT
Popular five-mile road race (9AM) & walk (6 & 8AM) to benefit the Deary Memorial Cancer Fund; 15 or 30-mile bike ride options (8AM).
www.winyradio.com

14th @ 1:30pm
Arc Rubber Duck Race
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
Rubber ducks compete in the Quinebaug River for prizes; benefits ARC of Quinebaug Valley. www.winyradio.com

14th @ Dusk
Riverfire
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
www.winyradio.com

20th through October
Corn Maze Grand Opening Celebration
Fort Hill Farms, Thompson, CT
A fun and educational corn maze also ice cream, gem mining, animal barns and more!
www.forthillfarms.com

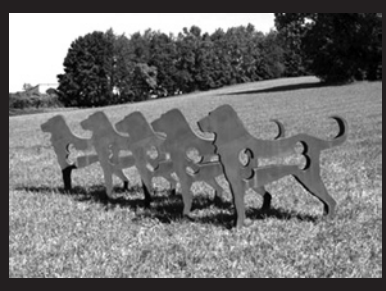
25-28th
The Brooklyn Fair
Brooklyn Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT
One of the nation's oldest agricultural fairs, voted 'Best Country Fair in New England,' by Yankee Magazine. Livestock exhibits, children's playland, tractor pulls, crafts, food, fireworks, and a full midway. Discounted tickets available online when purchased in advance.
www.brooklynfair.org

September

Labor Day Weekend
150th Woodstock Fair
(Labor Day Weekend)
Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT
Animals barns, agricultural barn, antique corner, arts & crafts, horse shows, food and a full midway.
www.woodstockfair.com

6-10th
Brimfield Antique Show
Brimfield, MA
The Brimfield Antiques Show is the largest outdoor antiques show in the world, with over 6,000 dealers. Some fields charge an admission fee others are FREE.
www.brimfieldshow.com

12th through Oct. 2nd
The Big Dog Show
Rotary Park, Putnam, CT
New England's largest traveling solo sculpture exhibit is a collection of 8-foot metal American Dog sculptures by award-winning metal sculptor Dale Rogers.
The town, the Putnam Lion's Club & the Putnam Arts Council Annual have teamed up to raise awareness for the Fidelco program in this outdoor exhibition.
www.discoverputnam.com



Mid-September (Date TBD)
Woodstock Annual Shop Hop
Hosted by the Woodstock Merchants Association in Woodstock, CT
Check website for futher information:
www.explorewoodstock.com

24th, 9-3pm
Celebrating Agriculture
Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock, CT
Hearty Breakfast (donation: adults $5, children under 10 just $3)
Agricultural Displays, Events/
Demonstrations, Egg Decorating Contest, Forestry Fair, Farm Equipment, Entertainment, Food, Farmer's Market, Hay Rides & Farm Tour, Children's Activities, Horses, Cows and More!

On Going Events

NEW: May through December
First Fridays
First Friday of every month @ 5pm
Downtown Putnam
Starting at 5PM, enjoy a variety of entertainment, specials from merchants & restaurants, art exhibitions, demonstrations and much more.

Arts & Framing
Putnam, CT
www.artsandframingputnam.com
Features art exhibits throughout the season.

Connecticut Audubon Society - Center at Pomfret
Pomfret, CT
www.ctaudubon.net
Guided walks, bird watches and more.

NEW: Sawmill Pottery
Putnam, CT
www.sawmillpottery.com
Sawmill Pottery is offering a host of workshops this summer for adults of all ages and capabilities! See page 15 for a listing of creative workshops!

Silver Circle Studio
Putnam, CT
www.silvercirclestudio.com
Features art exhibits and workshops throughout the season.

Peter Mulvey @ VBC

The Vanilla Bean Cafe
Pomfret, CT
www.vanillabeancafe.com
The Vanilla Bean features live folk music every Saturday @ 8 PM. and displays artwork from local artisans.

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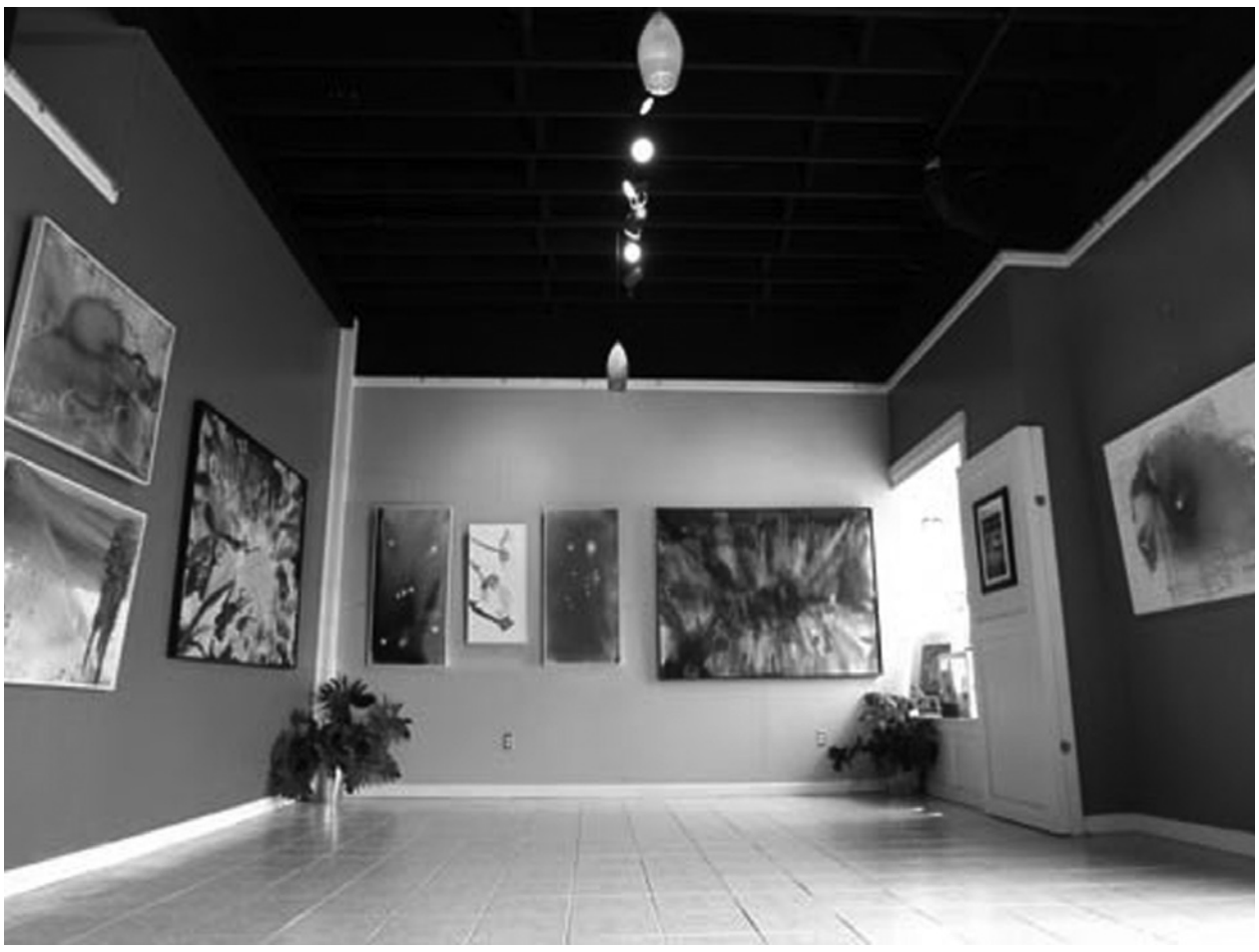
Putnam Traveler's Weekend Trip Planner

WHERE TO STAY, DINE & BE ENTERTAINED...



Silver Circle Gallery

❖ FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN:

Check into ***Feather Hill Bed & Breakfast*** **(www.featherhillbedandbreakfast.com)** for a wonderful weekend getaway. This bed and breakfast provides guests with centuries-old tradition of innkeeping in their hospitality, comfort, delicious food and privacy. Amenities include air conditioning, cable TV, Jacuzzi tub and spa shower. Canoe or kayak the nearby Quinebaug River or spend a lazy afternoon enjoying the warm summer breezes.

For visitors who prefer to stay in a hotel, check into ***America's Best Value Inn*** **(www.quietcornerinn.com)** in Brooklyn–rated the "Best of the Best" among Americas Best Value Inn properties.

❖ FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER:

Join the locals for dinner at ***J.D. Coopers*** **(www.jdcoopers.net)** located on 146 Park Road in Putnam. Before dinner you might want to relax in the Boar's Head Tavern–a comfortable, cozy lounge or the Sports Bar–a casual fun environment that features popcorn and widescreen TV's. Enjoy dinner at the bar, on the deck or inside the renovated dining room. J.D. Cooper's extensive menu features appetizers, salads, sandwiches, burgers, fresh fish and seafood and steak. On Friday and Saturday evenings enjoy Prime Rib, voted Best in Windham by *Connecticut Magazine*!

After dinner, check out the car cruise at the Putnam Parkade every Friday night or take in a live performance at the Bradley Playhouse. On the first Friday of every month downtown Putnam will be celebrating the arts with music, entertainment, art exhibits and more! Visit **www.discoverputnam.com** for more information.

❖ SATURDAY BREAKFAST:

Bill's Bread and Breakfast **(www.billsbreadandbreakfast.com)** is a quaint, family-owned restaurant located on Providence Street in Putnam. The menu includes breakfast sandwiches, omelettes, eggs, pancakes and French toast. Their specialties are oversized muffins and fresh baked breads. The portions here are large...you won't leave hungry.

❖ SATURDAY MID-MORNING:

Northeastern Connecticut is becoming known as a 'destination for art lovers' with art galleries scattered throughout the area. Starting on Main Street in Putnam, pay a visit to ***Glimpse of Gaia*** **(www.glimpseofgaia.com)** a unique floral shop that features antique items for the home and art displayed on the walls. From there, head to ***Arts & Framing*** **(www.artsandframingputnam.com)** featuring local art and custom framing and ***Sawmill Pottery*** **(www.sawmillpottery.com)** featuring a gallery of pottery made by various local artists–both are located in the Montgomery Ward Building. Travel past 85 Main and pay a visit to ***Silver Circle Gallery*** **(www.silvercirclegallery.com)**. Silver Circle features gallery exhibits, jewelry, and gifts all made by local artists.

Looking for more? Take a short drive to Pomfret and visit ***Hazelwood Gallery*** (**www.hazelwoodgallery.com**) a contemporary gallery of fine art and craft. Then visit ***Celebrations Gallery*** **(www.celebrationsshoppes.com)** featuring two floors of art including functional art, jewelry, glass, photography, oil paintings, watercolors, woodworking and more!

❖ SATURDAY LUNCH:

Continue your art tour at the ***Vanilla Bean Café*** **(www.thevanillabeancafe.com)** in Pomfret Center. The Vanilla Bean displays artwork by local artists on the walls of the dining area and most pieces are for sale. After you browse the 'gallery' enjoy lunch indoors or out – The Vanilla Bean features freshly made daily lunch specials, homemade soups & chili, sandwiches, salads, wraps, quesadillas and much more!

❖ SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

Hike, bike, paddle and explore the Last Green Valley, a National Heritage Corridor. This is the last tract of predominately undeveloped land in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. Enjoy the beautiful trails, waterways, open fields, lush forests and abundant wildlife. Visit ***The Last Green Valley*** online at **www.tlgv.org** and click on 'explore' to download information including a walking guide and a guide to local wildlife, also cycling trails and guides to area waterways.

The Connecticut Audubon Center **(www.ctaudubon.org)** in Pomfret manages the 700-acre Bafflin Sanctuary with walking trails open to the public. Start your journey with a visit to the Center at Pomfret for information and trail maps.

Consider renting kayaks at ***Five Mile Outfitters*** in Danielson and explore the waterways of northeastern Connecticut. Read the feature article on page 4 of this issue of the Putnam Traveler for more information!

❖ SATURDAY DINNER:

Start your evening with a wine tasting at ***Sharpe Hill Vineyard*** **(www.sharpehill.com)** located in Pomfret. Winemaster Howard Bursen has worked with Sharpe Hill to produce wines which have received over 80 awards for excellence in national and international competitions. Be sure to make reservations a few weeks in advance for dinner at the Fireside Tavern located on the grounds of the Vineyard. Connecticut Magazine's May cover featured "Fifty Dishes to Try Before you Die" and it included the Fireside's Creole Shrimp entrée. Dining is available on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

❖ SUNDAY MORNING:

Enjoy breakfast at the Country View Restaurant located on the grounds of the ***Brooklyn Country Club*** **(www.brooklyngolfcourse.com)** in Brooklyn, CT. The Country View Restaurant features a full breakfast menu made with fresh ingredients served in a comfortable dining room with a beautiful view of the Brooklyn Golf Course. After breakfast, enjoy a round of golf on the nine-hole course. Coming soon...ice cream and mini golf!

❖ ANNUAL EVENTS:

There is always something to see to and do in the Quiet Corner and summer is no exception! Enjoy car cruises, River Fires in Rotary Park, First Fridays featuring art in downtown Putnam, live performances at the Bradley Playhouse in Putnam, live music in Rotary Park in Putnam and at the Vanilla Bean Cafe in Pomfret, wine tastings, art exhibits, corn mazes (late summer), and agricultural events including the ***Brooklyn Fair*** at the Brooklyn Fairgrounds in August and the ***Woodstock Fair*** at the Woodstock Fairgrounds Labor Day weekend, also ***Celebrating Agriculture*** at the Woodstock Fairgrounds in September! Check our calendar for a full listing of events or visit **www.visitnect.com** and click on 'annual events.'

Thank you for visiting northeastern Connecticut...we look forward to bringing you more weekend planner ideas in future issues of the Putnam Traveler.

Northeastern CT's Premier Visitor Guide – www.visitnect.com
Town of Putnam – www.discoverputnam.com
Town of Pomfret – www.visitpomfret.com
Town of Woodstock – www.explorewoodstock.com
The Last Green Valley – www.tlgv.org
Sturbridge, MA Tourism – www.sturbridge.org

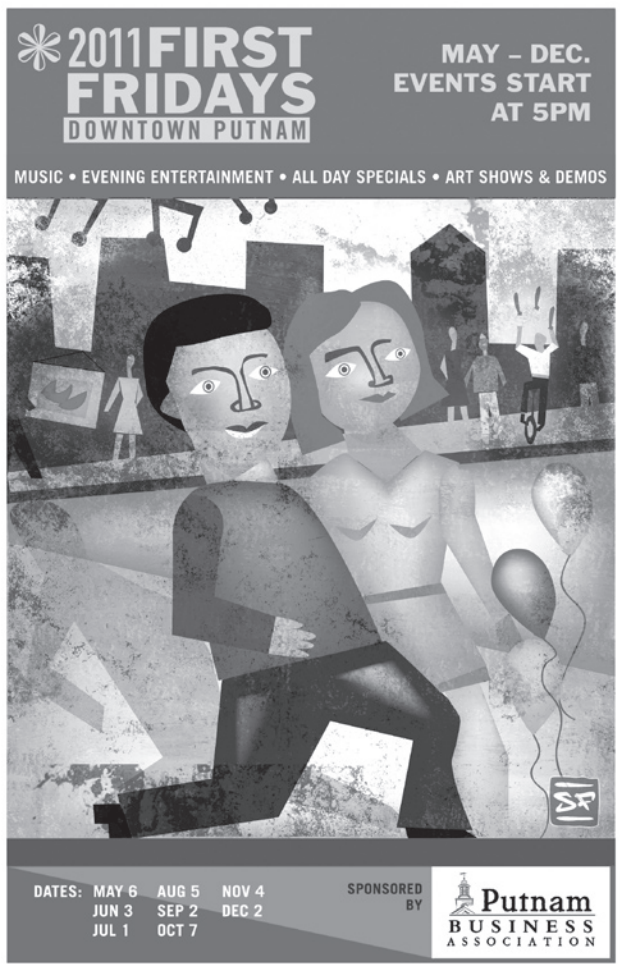
Celebrating Art & Culture in Putnam

Two years ago, four proprietors of Putnam galleries got together with a vision...to create a monthly event centered around the arts that would highlight all the diversity Putnam has to offer, as well as bring in talent from the surrounding area in celebration of arts and culture. This group hoped to be a part of making Putnam an arts destination, not only during those monthly events, but every day of the year. Finally, their vision has been realized.

BY DOT BURNWORTH

Downtown Putnam kicked off what promises to be a full season of arts and entertainment on May 6 with the initial First Friday celebration. Throughout town, visitors happened upon pianists, guitarists, art openings, and demonstrations. A highlight of the evening was the flash mob of dancers from the Breakin' Through II Dance Company. As diners were enjoying the warm spring evening on the patios of Someplace Special, Bella's, 85 Main, and Victoria Station Cafe, they were interrupted by a police car suddenly turning out and blocking the street. Right behind it stopped an unmarked van, out of which jumped the troupe of dancers. Suddenly, the street was filled with a performance that delighted and surprised onlookers. And just as quickly as they arrived, they were gone. After their 15 minute show, they hopped back in the van, and were escorted out of town. The first so-called "Art Attack" was a huge success. Sheri Socher of Arts and Framing raved, "I felt an excitement from the people who witnessed the Art Attack...something new and different."

New and different is just what the visionaries were hoping for. Carly Martin, of Silver Circle Gallery was one of the founding members of the First Friday committee. She said, "When several of us envisioned an arts-based downtown event, I hoped that the community would respond to and benefit from something that is meant to capture the cultural diversity and highlight the many treasures that our area has to offer. Thankfully the town has embraced our vision. I am proud to be an integral part of growing such an important effort at a grassroots level. I look forward to experiencing how



First Fridays will contribute the positive growth and vitality of downtown Putnam."

The June 3rd First Friday proved that the town has embraced the vision as Carly Martin hoped. With attendance doubling that of the first month, there was a palpable energy and anticipation. Early in the day, the town was buzzing about the murals being painted on the side of a building just past the bridge on Rte. 44 leading into downtown. By 6pm, music could be heard from 3 different locations, passers-by were stopping to make clay magnets with Sawmill Pottery, and Silver Circle Gallery was filling with art enthusiasts. Shoppers at Antiques Marketplace were thrilled to find a special

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Tea Events
Multiple Course Afternoon Teas held 2-5 pm
Lady Liberty Tea – July 14 & 16
Fabulous Florals Tea – August 18 & 20
Artful Autumn Tea – September 15 & 17
Advance reservations required. Available for groups

gold and silver jewelry sale for First Friday. Owner Jerry Cohen said, "Downtown Putnam has so much to offer now, with all our art galleries, restaurants, and antiques shops, that we are very excited to be part of these events." Nichola Johnson Mercier, of The Complex Performing Arts Center added, "First Fridays are an exciting addition to an already thriving town. The fusion of business, culture and community is sure to prove a positive effect on Putnam and all it has to offer." Sean Condon, First Friday committee chair, agrees and shares Nichola's enthusiasm. "We hope First Friday will both highlight and help expand Putnam's art scene. We are working hard on the entertainment, artist demos and Art Attacks to make the event is one you won't want to miss. I am already very excited for July 1st," Condon says with a twinkle in his eye–clearly referring to the fabulous entertainment lineup headed by Spogga, a musician and regional celebrity out of Providence, RI.

While the visitors enjoy these monthly events for the obvious entertainment and cultural value, Putnam's Economic and Community Development Director, Delpha Very, has an additional reason to support the events. For her, it all relates back to her mission of strengthening Putnam's growing economy. She said, "I view the process as enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors, and the creation of a 'sense of place' that people want to be a part of. Events like 'First Fridays' bring about a sense of community that we all seek, especially in difficult times, and a time to celebrate and connect to the creative assets that make Putnam such a special place. The result of these successes?... Economic Development."

Perhaps it is this same mindset that motivated Mona Lee, manager of First Niagra bank in Dayville, to join the First Friday organizing committee. She said, "I am very encouraged to be part of a dynamic, creative and open-minded group of business owners who are not only trying to make a difference but are succeeding with flying colors and open to new ideas. This area is definitely 'dancing on the edge' of greatness and I look forward to the journey."

No one will deny that Putnam is a small town, but it is one with a big personality, and it is making itself heard. In just the past two or three years, Putnam has defined itself as an arts destination, with new galleries and shops like Panache and Glimpse of Gaia moving in amongst the well-known, long-time vendors such as Antiques Marketplace. In addition to the variety and depth of the visual arts, Putnam boasts two full time performing arts venues, quite astonishing for a town of just over 9000 residents. The variety of eateries is equally remarkable, with a range spanning from a fun, colorful hot dog joint to several upscale bistros, serving organic and locally sourced cuisine. It is quickly becoming impossible to experience all that Putnam has to offer in one day. Luckily, you don't have to try. First Fridays are planned for the first friday (go figure!) of every month through December.

Karen Osbrey, president of the Putnam Business Association, explains, "First Fridays are a celebration of that creative entrepreneurship that keeps Putnam fresh and exciting." First Fridays are scheduled for July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7, November 4 and December 2. And, she adds, "No two First Fridays will be alike and don't be surprised when you are surprised."

Celebrating Agriculture 2011

Looking for a fun, free, family friendly event this summer?

Head to the Woodstock Fairgrounds on RT 169 on Saturday, September 24th for the 11th Annual Celebrating Agriculture day. If you choose, start your day off with a Hearty Farm Breakfast (9 to 11AM; donation: adults $5, kids $3) that includes farm fresh products such as local eggs and maple syrup. Then head off to see agricultural displays, farm animals and equipment, take a hayride, buy local products, enjoy demonstrations and children's activities including a hay maze and face painting. Visit www.celebratingagriculture.org for the full schedule of events and activities for all ages. And don't miss the Parade starting near the poultry barn at 2pm!

Lunch Vendors include: Woodchoppers Café – Bunyan Burgers, kid's meals, soda
Creamery Brook Bison – Bison Burgers • Senexet Grange – Chowder
Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm - ice cream and desserts

Since 2001, the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor in conjunction with the USDA, local farmers and a variety of organizations plus countless volunteers have made "Celebrating Agriculture" a successful showcase of the benefits agriculture provides to the region. They strive to educate visitors about the challenges local farms face and encourage consumer purchasing of local farm products. Since many local farms are represented, this is a great way to "put a face to your local food"---to meet and support your neighbors who help feed the community and who maintain the beautiful open space and the working landscape of our area.

www.celebratingagriculture.org • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 (9:00 AM-3:00 PM)
Woodstock Fairgrounds, RT 169, Woodstock Connecticut • FREE, RAIN OR SHINE!

BRADLEY
Theatre of Northeastern Connecticut
30 Front Street (Rt. 44) Downtown Putnam, Connecticut

THE PRODUCERS August 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20 at 7 p.m. • August 7, 14, 21 at 2 p.m. Winner of 12 Tony Awards, this madcap, racy, energenic musical will have you laughing and clapping with delight, as you watch the story of two Broadway producers and their scheme to get rich by overselling interests in a sure fire Broadway flop.
Musical: $21 for Adults • $18 for Students/Senior Citizens

NEVERMORE October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 at 7 p.m. • October 9, 16, 23 at 2 p.m. In September 1849, Edgar Allan Poe boarded a ship in Baltimore Harbor for an overnight voyage to New York City. He never arrived. Five days later, he was found delirious on a Baltimore street, and shortly thereafter, he died. What had transpired over those missing five days has remained forever a mystery...until now...
Non-musical: $17 for Adults • $14 for Students/Senior Citizens

Tickets Available at:
Wonderland Books, 120 Main St., Putnam, CT
Victoria Station Cafe, 91 Main St., Putnam, CT
For reservations call 860-928-7887 or online at
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We Like "We-Lik-It"

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream."

BY CRIS CADIZ

In fact, we love We-Lik-It! And so do thousands of happy customers from far and wide. We-Lik-It is a family-owned and operated ice cream stand on Route 97 in the Abington section of Pomfret. The Rich family has farmed the surrounding 120 acres for 35 years. Having served ice cream since 1990, We-Lik-It is so popular it was recognized this spring as a 2011 "Editors choice" by Yankee Magazine's Travel Guide to New England. Every year, Yankee's editors and contributors award a place on this exclusive list to select restaurants, lodgings, and attractions in New England.

When the Rich family found out about the Yankee Magazine award in April, they were shocked. "It was a complete surprise," says Becky Rich, who has taken over running the ice cream stand from her mom, Linda. "We didn't realize what a big deal it is! People were coming up to me in the grocery store and saying congratulations. We didn't even know [the magazine editors] were here. They just stopped in to taste one day."

Ice cream stands are a summer standard. So what makes We-Lik-it so special? "The quality of the ice cream," says Becky, "and the farm atmosphere." The ice cream is made on-site with ingredients mixed in by hand. "It has 16% butterfat, which is the highest you can get." This is supremely rich ice cream. Not great if you are watching your weight, but heaven if you are an ice cream connoisseur.

Like many ice cream stands, We-Lik-It serves their ice cream through an open window, as a sundae, cone, frappe, or float. Waffle cones made while you wait are also a favorite, and the smell of them cooking golden brown sweetens the air. We-Lik-It serves unusual flavors

" 'Apes Delight,' 'Chipmunk Tracks,' and two dozen other flavors in scoops so creamy they almost moo. There's a whiff of hay and flowers in the air at this country road stand, bordered by barns and a greenhouse full of hanging baskets."

- Yankee Magazine

such as Mashamoquet Mud, Gurnsey Cookie, Jersey Jolt, Road Kill, Chipmunk Tracks, and more.

Flavors are a group effort, says Becky. "We take suggestions from customers. The other night I thought a margarita sounded good and came up with Margarita Madness. We do a trial run and if it's a hit, it goes on the list." The oddest flavors Becky has mixed have been custom designed for weddings, one was Rosemary & Pecan Praline and another was Candied Yam. Flavors change with the seasons. During summer the most popular are Mashamoquet Mud (chocolate with Oreo cookies) and Road Kill (vanilla with cherry swirl, white chips & walnuts–this writer's fav!). Fall favorites are Pumpkin and Indian Pudding.

"As an employee and a big fan of the stand, I'd like to say that I am proud of the [Yankee Magazine] achievement, and I feel it's well deserved," says Jody Blanchet. "Since I've started working at the stand, my four and five-year-old kids will not eat ice cream anywhere else. Once you try We-Lik-it, you become an ice cream snob and all others taste wrong!"

When asked to guess how many visitors We-Lik-It gets during a summer, Becky was stumped. "I don't know. Lots! Locals know to come on Wednesdays at 5PM..." she laughs. Weekdays are when the parking lot might have open spots and there won't be a long line of salivating customers snaking out to the road. Regardless, it's worth the wait!

Visitors will agree that We-Lik-It's ice cream is special but so is the setting–a peaceful farm amid the Quiet Corner's stone-wall-bound green fields. A small menagerie of farm animals delights both kids and adults. On-site livestock might include cows, pigs, ducks, geese, rabbits and more. In addition to a herd of 60 Holstein dairy cows, the farm raises a herd of beef cattle and Percheron draft horses. Wagon, hay and sleigh rides can be hired for special occasions.

The Rich farm sells its own USDA-certified beef (no hormones or other bad stuff). A seasonal greenhouse offers locally grown produce, annuals, perennials, pumpkins and holiday greens.

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Workshops at Sawmill Pottery!

Interested in learning pottery or enhancing your skills? Sawmill Pottery is offering classes and workshops for all ages and all levels of experience.

• Create a Handbuilt Mug

$35 includes firing one mug
Saturday, July 23, 10am-Noon
Friday, August 12, 6-8pm
Learn the basics of handbuilding through a functional mug form. You will learn to use the slab roller, the extruder, and texturing tools to build a beautiful mug to keep or use as a holiday gift. When you've completed your mug, you'll get to choose glaze colors for it. The mug will be fired and glazed for you and will be ready to pick up in two weeks.

• Wheelthrowing 101

Friday, June 10, 6:30-8:30pm
Saturday, July 9: 10AM-noon
Thursday, August 11: 6-8pm
$40, includes firing fees for one piece.
Always wanted to try the pottery wheel? Here's your chance! We'll work for two hours on the pottery wheel, learning the basics of bowls, plates, and maybe even a mug! You'll get dirty, so come in old clothes or bring an apron. This workshop is for beginners only.

• Sculptural Vessels with Kate Oggel

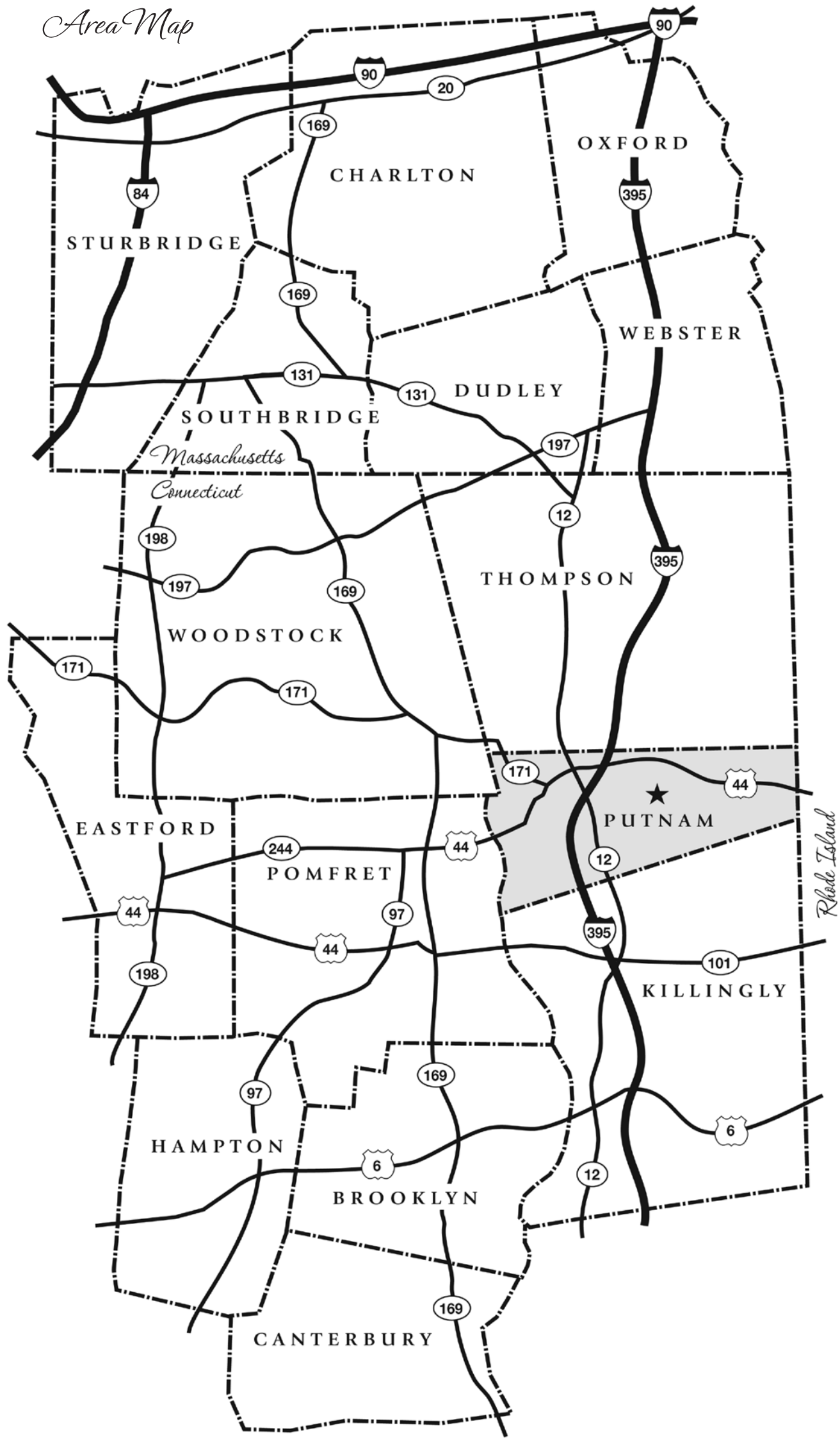
July 30 and 31. Saturday, 10-4 and Sunday, 10-3.
$150 plus firing fees.
Additional slide lecture on Friday, July 29 at 7pm is free of charge and open to the public.
Ceramic vessels offer a great starting point for experimentation with more sculptural forms in clay. This workshop will focus on the decisions and processes addressed in making vessel-based sculptures.

• Large-Scale Handbuilding For The Garden with Larry Elardo

Saturday and Sunday, August 13 and 14, 10am-4pm. $175 plus firing fees.
Prerequisite: Create a Handbuilt Mug workshop or equivalent handbuilding experience.
In this 2-day hands-on workshop we will explore clay design strategies to "survive or compromise with" the New England weather. Demonstrations will include slab building techniques for crafting large scale garden pieces. We will also cover topics like: Handling large slabs, surface decoration, bevel cutting joints, building in sections, identifying and using forms, glazing and firing considerations.

For more information about workshops email dot@sawmillpottery.com or visit www.sawmillpottery.com!

Area Map



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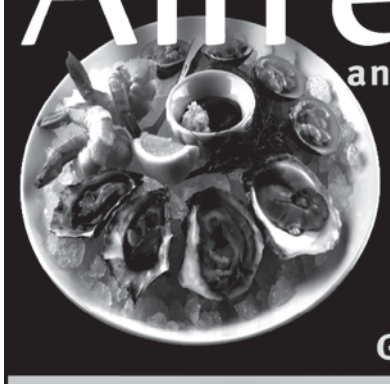

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River Fire – July 16 and September 10
Deary Road Race – Aug 13
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